

PRELIMINARY LOSS REPORT 0531

MOTORCYCLE CRASH CLAIMS 1 LIFE -- ACCIDENT

A 13th COSCOM Soldier was killed in a motorcycle accident on 13 Mar 05 at 1708 local in Killeen, TX. The 23 year-old operator (SGT) was traveling at an estimated 65 mph in a 35 mph zone, thus increasing the rate of closure. A pick-up truck pulled out in front of him at an intersection. As the operator laid his bike down to prevent a collision, his head impacted the truck's bumper. With only minimal damage to the motorcycle, the operator was not wearing a helmet and died from head injuries. The Soldier was on leave and had recently returned from Iraq in February 2005. Alcohol does not appear to be a factor.

There have been **26** Class A-C Army **motorcycle** accidents from the start of FY05 to the date of this accident (to include this accident), resulting in **12** Soldier deaths. Of these fatalities, **four** were not wearing a helmet and helmet usage was not reported for **four** others.

Don't let this happen in your formation. Consider these actions to prevent similar POV accidents:

- ✓ Establish an agreement with motorcycle operators regarding responsibilities ([i.e. POV Risk Management Toolbox -page 38](#)). Take appropriate action (s) when non-compliance with the agreement is detected or reported.
- ✓ Before operating a motorcycle, ensure Soldiers have completed an [Army-Approved Motorcycle Safety Course \(MSC\)](#) and understand regardless of State helmet law, Soldiers must wear a DOT approved helmet
- ✓ During POV inspections verify motorcycle operator's license, MSC card, and appropriate PPE.
- ✓ Encourage experienced safe motorcycle riders to mentor those younger riders in the local military community on how to operate safely.